

SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES

May 9, 2007

Mrs. Briggs - The regular meeting of the Town of North Smithfield Sewer Commission was called to order on Wednesday May 9, 2007 at 7:01 pm.

Roll Call - Mrs. Paul - In attendance was: Mr. McGee, Mrs. Briggs, Mr. Connolly, and Mrs. Paul, Secretary. Mr. Nordstrom was out of town on business. Mr. Tikoian and Mr. Alvarez were not in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Briggs -Approval of Sewer Commission for March 14, 2007 minutes.

MOTION made by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on an aye vote 3-0 to accept and approve the March 14, 2007 minutes. There was no meeting in April, therefore there were no minutes to approve.

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Briggs – Since Mr. Alvarez wasn't present the commission skipped over his report and will address him once he arrives.

3. KEITH DULUDE-Sewer Assessment Abatement at 10 Glen Avenue

Mr. Dulude-Stated he went to the town council meeting but unfortunately there was no one present from the commission who attended and there were no minutes available, so the Town Council requested that he return and speak to the commission again. He doesn't feel that he is being fairly or equally charged on his sewer connection fee as compared to other properties in town in recent months and years. He is requesting an opinion from the sewer commission and will return back to the town council meeting. He feels that the sewer ordinance is flawed in a lot of areas. He states that the Mendon Road and Branch district, list the districts that are included in that district but in the Union Village district it doesn't list any streets in that district and he is asking how does he know if his street is in there or not?

Mrs. Briggs stated that they have established that the Union Village is a district and those addresses that have been billed for the last 20-25 years are the addresses that encompass the Union Village district.

Mr. Dulude asked how do they know if his property ever paid an assessment or not?

Mrs. Briggs stated that her records showed that there was never an assessment paid on his property. Therefore he would not be considered as a member of the Union Village district and as a result

and when he tried to tie in, it would be considered adding in, and therefore falling under the 2000 year ordinance revision which requires the \$5,200 hook up per unit.

Mr. Dulude asked about the Meadows?

Mrs. Briggs stated that the Meadows was something totally different and it can not be considered since it was a court decision and he was asked that he was there she thought to discuss his property.

Mr. Dulude asked why is the Meadows paying \$450 per unit and why is he paying \$5,200?

Mrs. Briggs stated to Mr. Dulude that it was a court ordered decision and that was something that happened more than a decade ago. There is now a 2000 year ordinance and the change requires a \$5,200 connection fee for anyone who is out of district. Mr. Dulude is operating in a separate situation therefore falls under a sewer lot development fee which is the \$5,200 per unit. Glen Avenue is not identified as a district. The North Smithfield Wastewater Management Facilities plan is on record at the library and is in draft form and has not yet been accepted.

Mr. Dulude stated that he understands everything she has said but he still doesn't agree with the ordinance. He stated that he has someone to interpret for him and can speak with the council members and was

asked to come by and speak with the commission and he understands that the commission's position is to enforce the ordinance.

Mrs. Briggs stated that she hoped that she gave him some more clarification on the situation and she explained that it is their role to enforce the ordinance and send forward especially hardship situations and that they are just a recommending body only.

4. SUSAN BOWAB-24 Oaklawn Road-Sewer User Fee Abatement

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Mrs. Briggs stated to Mrs. Bowab that there is correspondence in her packet from Mr. McGee a (sewer commission member) that will cause her to go without a quorum. Mrs. Bowab provided a packet for a request for a hardship and looking for a recommendation from the commission to be forwarded to the council that would consider her property a hardship for connecting.

Mr. McGee recused himself because he had inspected the plumbing at Mrs. Bowab's property with Allard Construction before he was on the Sewer Commission.

Mrs. Briggs stated to Mrs. Bowab that with Mr. McGee recusing

himself, there is not a quorum for the sewer commission to vote on anything for Mrs. Bowab. She told Mrs. Bowab that they have everything they need and that she didn't need to return. She stated that the earliest time that the council would be able to look at would be July. The commission will review it at the June meeting and will forward the information to the council in July.

5. JOINT MEETING WITH TOWN COUNCIL-For Infrastructure Improvements for Bond Question in Spring 2008 and

6. FACILITY PLAN DISCUSSION (Both Topics Discussed Together)

Mrs. Briggs stated that because they do have representation from the council however, she stated that it wasn't posted and there is not a quorum of council members it would not be considered a joint meeting but it is considered a workshop. Present from the council were Mrs. Thibault, Council President and Mr. Keeley. She explained to them the need for those residents and that the facility plan had to be updated. She explained the last time the facility plan had been updated was back in 1992 and looking at those numbers compared to 2006, the numbers have nearly doubled for those same areas. It is the Sewer Commissions recommendation to move forward in sewerage some of the areas that have had major concerns with ISDS failures and or at least the need for work. She stated that the facility plan that was created back in 1992 did set forth a 10 year plan and in the 15 years since then, nothing has been done. It was after the last bond and the last bond taken isn't even on the plan. There are 7 areas in need and it is a big chunk of change Mrs. Briggs explained.

There were some residents present who may want to speak. She stated that the way the wastewater collection systems are, it is considered an enterprise fund and is self sufficient and supporting. Mrs. Briggs proceeded to read the recommendation as follows:

Dated May 9, 2007

**Members of the North Smithfield Town Council
North Smithfield Town Administrator**

Dear Sir/Madam:

**The North Smithfield Sewer Commission brings forth the following recommendation to be placed on the
May 11, 2007 Town of North Smithfield Council Agenda for review, discussion and appropriate action.**

The Recommendation is as follows:

**The North Smithfield Town Council approves the placement of public wastewater collection system in
the following areas as presented by the Town engineering firm Geremia and Associates:**

**Great Road East, Greene St., St. Paul St., Victory Highway/Dawley Brook, Warren Ave./Park Dr., Waterford
and Willerval/Tanglewood. As an enterprise fund the North Smithfield Wastewater collection system is**

designed to be self funding and supportive. Therefore, any question of general obligation funds shall become the burden of the affected parties (users) of the system. Those users are identified as property owners in the area outlined by the facility plan which has been submitted to the town by Geremia and Associates.

Most of these areas have seen significant onsite ISDS problems. Residents in these areas have approached the commission requesting our assistance to provide relief to their overburdened and often outdated systems. We have reviewed the facility plan and given the number of failures combined with the environmentally sensitive areas in which they are located, we believe the areas chosen are the most critical to receive our immediate support. The anticipated cost of these projects combines to a total of \$20,705 million.

The Commission further recommends the Town Council forward to the necessary authorities' documents that will demonstrate their support for these projects and begin the process to secure funding of these projects through the State Revolving Fund. This action requires enabling legislation and it is our recommendation that approval be secured in this Spring 2007 legislative session. Further upon approval of this action we recommend

the question to secure the necessary funds on behalf of the town be contained on the ballot for the next election cycle.

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There remain six other areas identified in the updated facility plan; however, the commission is not seeking

funding for these areas at this time. We do however, support the addition of infrastructure in those areas and expect to seek funding for them at some point in the future.

Sincerely, Linda-Jean Briggs NS Sewer Commission
Chair.

Mrs. Lynn Pariset a resident who resides on the lower section of Elizabeth Avenue, has lived there for over 20 years, have a very outdated system and lives with a family of four. She expressed her concern on the need for a new sewer system. To put in a new system would cost approximately \$35,000 for her and it would not be guaranteed. She stated that they would rather put the money towards something that would last many years. Mrs. Pariset asked if the town provides the hookup & would the \$5,200 assessment be in addition to that?

Mrs. Briggs stated that that was something put into place and she

explained that the \$5,200 is different and would only come into play if she would come into an existing district.

Mrs. Pariset understood that they would be responsible and would pay for their share of the cost to bring the line down and whatever hookup would cost from the street to the house.

Mrs. Briggs stated yes that was correct.

Mrs. Pariset asked how was the seven areas broken up and is each section responsible for the cost of their section?

Mrs. Briggs stated that was the rationale behind combining the seven districts into one bond is to help all of those properties within the seven districts and they would share the total cost divided by.

Mrs. Folan lives down the street on Elizabeth Avenue and she expressed her concern and that she is in agreement with Mrs. Pariset and does want the sewers. Also, she asked Mrs. Briggs if she had an estimate per household of the \$20 million.

Mrs. Briggs stated that it was approximately \$25k for the area over 20 years and the additional cost would depend on the distance between the pipe that goes from the road to the house.

Mrs. Folan asked if their house was sold in the midst of this who

would be responsible for the cost?

Mrs. Briggs stated that the new owner would assume that at this moment. But at sometime in the future, it doesn't say that that could change.

Mrs. Folan asked when would it begin to take place?

Mrs. Briggs stated that the recommendation that they provided to the council and take action on and ask the state legislators to consider it probably in the spring legislative session in 2008. It would require a vote by the town and a passage of the bond by the whole town whether they are impacted or not. Once the bond is approved by the people of the town of North Smithfield, then and only then is when the process begins.

Mr. Roger Fontaine resides at 79 Colerick Street and he came to a meeting over a year ago representing the Waterford district. As a district, he asked each member of the households to present letters. He expressed that the system in that area is failing miserably and now asking for town council's support to keep moving forward and he feels it is high time that they get their due share of the support.

Mr. Alvarez arrived at 7:55 PM.

Mrs. Thibault shared with everyone that Mr. Geremia gave a

wonderful presentation to the council a few weeks ago and she expressed that the council is very much in support of this and they understand. She is aware that there is a major problem in the Waterford area. She asked Mrs. Briggs as to when does she want to begin at the next election cycle?

Mrs. Briggs response was whenever the next election cycle would happen to be.

Mrs. Thibault stated that she didn't want to wait for the next election cycle and was hoping to go with a special election and go forward. She stated that they have the recommendation of the Sewer Commission and she needs to talk to Mark Hadden the Town Solicitor and then go forward and they will have a meeting, take a vote and that they would need time to post. And they will be called and facilitate as quickly as possible.

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Mrs. Briggs stated that they have the updated facilities plan, it's still in draft form and it is in DEM's hands right now. They have to accept it and once they accept it then it comes back to the Sewer Commission and they then have to hold a public hearing. She stated that they are not hindered by that process in looking to seek bond enabling legislation.

Mrs. Thibault stated that Representative Church knows that they will be coming to him with this and she wanted to check with the Town Solicitor before they go forward and that they do have the support of the council.

Mrs. Briggs thanked both Mrs. Thibault and Mr. Keeley for attending their meeting. She also expressed her concern, importance and the need for those residents.

7. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Briggs enters into record a letter received from Robert Hope Larder dated April 11, 2007 Requesting for Extension of time to connect sewer facilities to public sewerage for Miriam Baldwin located at 139 Main Street, Slatersville, Plat #04, lot 433. It will be placed on the June agenda and it will be discussed at that time. (See correspondence). All members will review the correspondence. The secretary will contact and advise Mr. Larder that it will be placed on Junes agenda.

Mrs. Briggs received a revised copy of the Notice of Regular Meetings from the secretary which has already been adopted.

MOTION by Mr. Connolly and seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on an aye vote 3-0 to accept and approve the revised Notice of Regular Meetings notice schedule.

Mrs. Briggs stated that all members received a copy of the commission's index and explained the index would assist members in locating information in the index. It is in alphabetical order for easy reference.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Briggs wants to add a request made by Mr. James Geremia to the Planner and Planning Board that they provide comment on the Future Wastewater Management Plan that was added to the facility plan at their recommendation on page 6-10 Chapter 6.2 and has not yet heard back from them. She wants to begin a discussion at some point whether or not they want to continue to have it in their facility plan. She feels that the chapter is extremely labor intensive and without comment and/or some structure set up for its compliance, it may not be best served remaining in that document. She has personally asked the Planner to provide comment to Geremia. She would like to entertain a motion requesting the Planning Board to take action, review and make comment and determine whether or not this is something that will become part of their compliance schedule. It was added on the request of the Planning Department. The entire town was listed as a wastewater management district with DEM and that is part of their approval with the facility plan. There is a lot of review for compliance added into it and that is where the engineers are looking for comment from Planning. At present the towns sewer department does not have the manpower to handle that level of

compliance for individual ISDS systems and that is what it will require. It was added onto the facility plan at the request of the Planner and the Planning Board have not returned comment to the towns engineer. She feels it is a benefit to the town to have something like this in place but it is an administrative task that she isn't sure that they are able to take on.

No motions made.

2. REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Alvarez – See Aprils report from the Superintendent. For the radio path study, he stated that there were only two stations that came back with a low signal. He stated that the auto con is showing signs of aging. Mr. Alvarez received estimates and it came back higher than what they thought. He installed a mini SCADA system that collects information and also controls the pump station, it does everything as a regular SCADA but on a smaller scale. He had the mini SCADA installed in place of the auto con which is not working and it is connected to the dedicated telephone line.

He installed a mini SCADA at Elizabeth Avenue metering station. Emergency generators were serviced. When the Silver Pines pump station failed, he called DAS Construction. They are no longer on site. So he had the key and was able to reset the pumps and he got them back working to where they were suppose to be. There are other issues at that pump station and he spoke to DAS and informed

them that the station isn't working properly.

Mrs. Briggs requested the secretary to draft a letter and make a recommendation to the town council that they contact DAS Construction and initiate the complete turnover of the Silver Pines pump station to the Town of North Smithfield in a fully functional state immediately. They sent a letter accepting our people connecting but in the event that there was any problem we would be responsible to correct the pump station. She stated that she wants the pump station fully functional to become a part of the towns system.

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Mr. Alvarez stated that he had three residents tie in this past week. They were either having problems finding the right person to repair it or finding the trouble. He can't turn the SCADA because it keeps sending a false alarm and its saying it is a high wet well when it isn't a high wet well. He has explained it to DAS Construction company several times. They did drop off the O & M manual last week. Steve Cote said they were going to have a formal turnover of the station. Mr. Alvarez spoke to the maintenance manager and told him that it isn't fully functional and that he can't turn it over until it is completely functioning properly and they have to prove it.

Mr. Connolly feels not to accept it until it is perfect.

Mrs. Briggs agrees but she stated that she wants to protect the town as the other residents are beginning to connect. The way she read the letter they wrote, it absolved them of any responsibilities once people start to connect.

Mr. Connolly stated maybe not to let them tie in until it is done and working properly.

Mr. Alvarez stated that some people are having problems with their septics and that is another issue.

Mrs. Briggs stated that something needs to be corrected, they are not correcting the problem and not turning it over.

Mr. Alvarez stated that the Geremia & Associates, the engineer did send them a letter and made them aware of what was wrong.

Mrs. Briggs asked Mr. Alvarez to provide a copy of the letter to the secretary. (The secretary will obtain a copy from Mr. Alvarez).

Mr. Alvarez agreed to do so. We are waiting for them. The problem is when that station fails, no one knows it. The only way he noticed it, was there was water out in the street and it was puddling by the manhole. And that was an indication that the manhole was flooded.

Mrs. Briggs stated that they have not built it to the way it was agreed. It was agreed that it would be built operational and turned over.

Mr. Alvarez stated that he can bring it to the attention of the Town Administrator and the Public Works Director.

Mr. Connolly stated that someone needs to sanction it and what is the sanction?

Mrs. Briggs agreed with Mr. Connolly and she stated that Mr. Alvarez needs to escalate it. The only thing they can do is to send it to the council advising them of the situation and what action they can take she didn't know. Certainly the administration should be able to take action.

Mr. Alvarez met with Ms. Lydia Vincent of the Atlanta State Rule Wastewater Association. They have a program that offers free smoke testing for collection systems and have begun a procedure and waiting for them to come back to him with a plan.

Mrs. Briggs asked when will she be meeting with everyone?

Mr. Alvarez response was that she will be meeting with everyone on May 10th. He stated that Mezza Luna Restaurant Plat 21 Lot 66 have connected to the sewer system. And Plat 1, Lot 269, at 16 McCann Street, a new house has connected to the sewer system. Also. They

cleaned the dry wells at Branch River and Pound Hill pump stations. There is a new roof on the Pound Hill Road pump station, new plywood was added along with a new roof on the eaves and it was completed last week. The muffin monster is on order and that project is due to be completed by September, 2007. He also found that the number two pump had failed at the Belcher Avenue pump station during a weekend routine SCADA check and inspected the pump and found that the seal had failed causing the pump to trip. The repair company will look at it at no cost. He had flushed a couple of manholes on Arnold Street off of Woonsocket Hill Road. He stated that all of this was stated in April's report.

Mr. McGee asked Mr. Alvarez if he had received some help?

Mr. Alvarez stated that a helper was hired in February and working full-time for the wastewater department. Also, he stated that he did receive the jetter and it will be on next month's report.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

10. ADJOURN

MOTION by Mr. Connolly, seconded by Mr. McGee and voted unanimously on an aye 3-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 P.M.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Patricia A. Paul

Sewer Commission Secretary